

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

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Reply To: 213.738.4601  
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May 28, 2010

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH SPECIAL SERVICE FOR GROUPS**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors' Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contract, by notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source Contract amendment with Special Service for Groups, located at 605 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

### **Background**

Of the 20,000 inmates housed daily in Los Angeles County Jails, approximately 2,000 are diagnosed with a mental illness. ninety percent of Los Angeles County jail inmates with mental illness are repeat offenders, and an estimated 31% have been incarcerated 10 or more times (as reported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Task Force on Incarcerated Mentally Ill, 1991).

The Sheriff of Los Angeles County has accepted two grant awards with the approval of your Board for meeting the needs of nonviolent offenders who suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders to support their successful transition back into community. Services required by the grant received from Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ/BJA) and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) will primarily be provided in the Los Angeles County Jails. The purpose is to promote community reintegration, reduce recidivism, and increase stability in the areas of mental health, sobriety, and pro-social decision making. This will be accomplished by providing expanded comprehensive jail in-reach mental health and supportive services and individualized discharge planning services prior to release. At release, linkage to appropriate community based services will be provided to nonviolent offenders as they transition back into the community.

The first grant is an award of \$95,340 (with a \$31,780 in-kind match by the Sheriff's Department, for a total program cost of \$127,120) from CalEMA for Fiscal Year 2009-10 to fund the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program (RSAT). This grant will fund services for clients with co-occurring and substance addiction issues, including behavioral and substance treatment and case management support during incarceration and in the community following release from jail. The Sheriff's Department will use the RSAT grant to implement the Service Treatment Enhancement Program (STEP), an in-jail substance abuse treatment program.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*



The second grant is an award of \$200,000 (with a \$50,000 in-kind match by the Sheriff's Department for a total program cost of \$250,000) from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), for the Fiscal Years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to fund the Justice and Mental Health Program for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Bureau of Offenders Programs and Services (BOPS). This grant will fund mental health, behavioral and substance treatment services, to ensure linkage to appropriate resources in the community for clients with mental health and co-occurring disorders.

The services to be provided with these two grants are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan, Goal 2, Child, Family and Adult Well-Being, providing an in-reach substance abuse and cognitive behavioral treatment service to clients who are incarcerated in County jail facilities, consistent with Goal 4, Health and Mental Health, providing incarcerated inmates in-jail treatment for their mental and health needs, and upon their release, a supervised care program in the community, and consistent with Goal 5, Public Safety, in providing services to those incarcerated to address the high recidivism rate of the mentally ill offenders and expand mental health services in the jail, prior to being released.

The Sheriff's Department intends to transfer \$295,340 by Department Service Order (DSO) to the County Department of Mental Health, which in turn will award these funds to SSG by sole source amendment of its DMH contract.

#### **Sole Source Justification**

SSG has been selected by the Sheriff's Department to provide services funded by these grants for several important reasons.

SSG has unique and extensive experience in providing mental health services to mentally ill offenders through a variety of mental health programs. SSG has extensive experience operating the Co-Occurring Dependence Court (CODC) Mental Health Program and has previously operated the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Program. SSG currently provides transition services for incarcerated clients at release to the community. The SSG forensic treatment team has worked in Los Angeles County jails over the past 3 years on similar specialized programs. All staff has clearance to work in the LA County jails and has established strong collaborative partnerships with the Sheriff's Department's staff and other jail mental health providers.

SSG has staff with the required bilingual/bicultural skills to serve the community in need, the agency has multidisciplinary mental health and substance abuse providers, including clinicians, certified substance abuse counselors and case managers. SSG staff is knowledgeable and experienced in the use of best practices such as occupational therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy. Due to this unique expertise and its previous success with in-jail programs, the Sheriff's Department named SSG as the mental health partner and recipient of the grant proposals to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA).

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SSG is currently contracted with the Department of Mental Health County Agreement #MH120478 to provide the same or substantially similar services in the jails and the community.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, DMH will proceed with negotiating the sole source contract. DMH will work closely with both County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing a new agreement with SSG.

MJS:EV:TC:drm

c: Health Deputies  
Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Robin Kay, Ph.D.  
Dennis Murata, M.S.W.  
Contracts Development and Administration